from the concerned authorities for construction of community centre in the name/memory of CPFC and EPF organisation around the temple;

(a) if so, whether Government would probe into the matter for cutting green trees and to punish the persons/officers responsible for such illegal action; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) As per records available with Employees Provident Fund Organisation there is no instance of felling of trees in Bhavishya Nfdhi Enclave.

Retrenchment of Factory Workers

5339. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(b) whether it is a fact that the Indian factories retrenched about 8 per cent of the total number of employees during the years 1998-2000;

(c) the approximate number of people lost job during that period; and

(d) the action proposed to arrest the declining employment trend in the factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. According to the provisional information received from the Labour Bureau, 7496 workers were retrenched during 1998-2000.

(c) During the Tenth five Yer Plan, emphasis will be placed on rapid growth of sectors, which are most likely to create high quality employment opportunities. In order to enable the poor to access the opportunities and to ensure consistency between the requirement and availability of skills, emphasis will be placed on skill development.

Strike by Trade Unions

5340. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the eight trade unions have gone on a nation-wide strike on the 16th April, 2002;